



European Construction Sector Observatory
Providing valuable insight on the European construction industry

ECOSO would like to invite you to participate in our feedback survey. We'd like to get your opinions on how we're doing and what we can improve. Take 10 minutes to participate in the survey!

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The European Construction Sector Observatory

The **European Construction Sector Observatory** aims to inform European policymakers and industry stakeholders about the market conditions and policy developments through regular analysis and comparative assessments. Visit the [ECOSO website](#) and gain access to a wide range of industry data and analysis. **ECOSO** contains all the information you need to stay up to date with the latest news and practical analyses about the construction sector in Europe.

28 Country Fact Sheets, 185 Policy Fact Sheets, 9 Analytical Reports and 4 Trend Papers are now online.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

5 New Policy Fact Sheets

6 Updated Country Fact Sheets

ECOSO Survey



EU Internal Market for Construction

There are several policies and measures that can be adopted by Member States to facilitate the free movement of goods, services, capital and labour throughout the European Union, especially as it pertains to the construction sector. Such policies and measures should remove or prevent any obstacles to this freedom of movement. Efforts in the construction sector are focussed on the standardisation of labelling construction goods for export, transparency and simplification of the provision and use of construction services, the recognition of professional qualifications across EU countries, and digital solutions. Measures that take these factors into account successfully help strengthen the EU internal market for construction.

Policy Fact Sheets

Five new Policy Fact Sheets (PFS) are now available for download, focusing on policies in Denmark, Finland, France, Lithuania and Latvia. The PFS provide an analysis of national policies influencing the development of five of the EU MS internal markets for the construction sector.

Denmark - ICT Regulations for Construction

Denmark continues to be a frontrunner in digital construction, with one of the most developed construction sectors in the world. It was the first country to introduce legislation mandating the use of information and communication technologies in construction work in 2007. Danish **ICT regulations** have encouraged the large-scale adoption and use of BIM, with 78% of construction companies using the technology in project design and delivery according to a survey from 2019. Construction stakeholders benefit at the project level, as BIM facilitates integrated planning, better communication and collaboration, better process and data control, and provides for fewer errors and faster delivery. The Bispebjerg Hospital site is a **flagship Danish BIM project** with a budget of **EUR 610 million**.

[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)



Finland - Digital Building Permit Process Using BIM

In 2016, Finland launched the **KIRA-BIM** programme, worth **EUR 16 million** in matched funding provided by the government and the construction sector, that was tasked with developing digital public services. One of the programme's pilot projects was a new digital building permit process using BIM in the city of Vantaa. After being completed in March 2017, the pilot demonstrated that all the **information needed to grant a building permit can be made available and interpreted directly from the BIM model**. Moreover, Vantaa's building inspectors could use 3D urban environment models, as required by the **Lithuanian cityscapes**, facilitating their analysis process. **The Digital Building Permit Process Pilot Project** addressed several perspectives, such as **data, services, standardisation, and operational models**.

[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)



France - DEMOCLES C&DW Management Platform

The **DEMOCLES Collaborative Construction and Demolition Waste (C&DW) Management Platform** was formed to help the construction and demolition sector to comply with the French Energy Law, and to **help increase the reuse and recycling rate for building waste**. By bringing partners and stakeholders from across the value chain together, the French government took a holistic and inclusive approach to identifying barriers for change to co-develop solutions and change enablers. DEMOCLES has shown that **up to 80% of secondary construction material waste can be recycled at no extra cost**, if all stakeholders get involved in the process. A total of **46 projects, being run by contracting authorities and project owners, are currently receiving support from DEMOCLES**.

[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)



Lithuania - Klaipeda Port Master Plan

Foreign trade is a key contributor to Lithuania's national economy and **Klaipeda** Port is an important facilitator of that trade. **The Klaipeda Port Master Plan received approval in 2019** by the **Lithuanian government** and is now at an early stage of implementation. The plan proposes ambitious targets that would **transform the port into the most competitive transport hub in the Baltic Sea** by 2040. Several investment projects have been launched under the masterplan, including the **Breakwaters Reconstruction Project** worth **EUR 40 million**, the new ferry infrastructure worth **EUR 20 million**, and the **Klaipeda Port Dredging Project** with a total budget of **EUR 46.8 million**.

[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)



Latvia - Construction Information System - Round 2

In 2018, the Latvian Government introduced an amendment to the Construction Law to make all construction process documentation fully digital. **The Construction Information System (CIS) Project - Round 1 was completed at a cost of EUR 2.8 million**. It allowed all construction-related formal administrative procedures in Latvia to be completed online, from the registration of project plans to project commissioning. Round 2 is building on the achievements of its predecessor by implementing new functionalities and processes. These include **building coordination and decision-making functionalities, the use of electronic time and attendance data in construction supervision, a CIS mobile app, and a construction waste disposal inventory**. Some of the main targets are to create a single construction document review process to be used in Latvia, increasing the speed of processing, documentation, and making the process more transparent and traceable overall.

[Read the full Policy Fact Sheet](#)



Country Fact Sheets

Six updated Country Fact Sheets are now available for download, focusing on the construction markets in Estonia, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden. The reports provide an analysis of key figures, macroeconomic indicators, economic drivers, issues and barriers, innovation and the national/regional policies and regulatory frameworks.

Country Fact Sheet Estonia

Estonia shows a high level of trade integration in the single market for goods and services, both being well above the EU27 average. Estonia's performance in public procurement is improving compared to previous years, especially in terms of publication rates, and cooperative procurement. **The Public Procurement State Register provides online procurement services such as company registration and a procurement portal**. Companies are encouraged to use a specialized public procurement development tool in order to mitigate corruption risks. The country ranks high in ease of access to markets for new and growing firms. **SMEs in Estonia are assisted in adhering to European standards by the Estonian Centre for Standardisation**. However, raising awareness about the existence of these services is warranted to ensure wider use of these resources.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)



Country Fact Sheet France

The French government has introduced **several measures to promote and develop its domestic SME environment**, for instance, the Action Plan for Business Growth and Transformation (PACTE - Plan d'Action pour la Croissance et la Transformation des Entreprises), was adopted in 2019 and is intended to **simplify the obligations connected with employee thresholds**, thereby helping SMEs to grow. In addition, the Plan will streamline regulations for entrepreneurs by creating a single online platform for business formalities, which is expected to be in place by 2023. France also adopted **performance-based standards that facilitate the mutual recognition of technical rules between Member States**.

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Country Fact Sheet Ireland

Ireland continues to perform very well in terms of the internal market information system. The government facilitates the provision of **cross-border construction services** and, specifically, the admission of EU engineers and professional engineering organisations. **Professional qualifications are recognised through the Mutual Recognition Agreements between Engineers Ireland** (the national professional body). The country has also worked toward standardising construction goods. **25 Eurocode Parts were made compulsory** for the design and construction of road structures, as required by the National Roads Authority, and their use in public procurement is regulated.

[Download the Country Fact Sheet](#)



Country Fact Sheet Lithuania

As per the EU Single Market Scorecard 2020, Lithuania scored above average for several indicators. The government has improved the speed at which EU Directives are transposed into national law. **Lithuania has also improved the environment for businesses to participate in public procurement** as the country increased use of cooperative procurement (central purchasing and joint procurement at central and local levels) and by small contracting authorities. In March 2019, the government adopted a plan to further improve public procurement professionalisation. This plan entails measures such as a **training scheme for public procurement specialists, as well as guidance and support**.

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Country Fact Sheet Sweden

Sweden's top performance was in **EU's single digital gateway** aimed at providing access to information, procedures, assistance and problem-solving services for SMEs. As part of the Swedish national export strategy, **coordination of export support services is offered at the regional level to SMEs that want to export their goods and services**. Sweden has set up an e-business portal ([www.mvskamt.se](#)) through which more than **45 different government agencies provide information, targeted support and other services such as company registrations and tax calculation**. Furthermore, in September 2018, an agency for digital government was established to develop, coordinate and support public sector digitalisation at both the central and local levels.

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Construction News and Events

Construction is changing rapidly, with new business models, concepts and technologies being introduced to best respond to new demands and requirements. To keep you aware, please find below a quick summary of news and upcoming events.

Construction News



ECOSO Survey

To ensure that ECOSO provides information and analysis of value to stakeholders, we would like to invite you to complete a short questionnaire, which is divided into four sections. The first section contains questions on the quality and relevance of our publications. The second section focuses on the webpage update and on its design and user-friendliness. The third section aims to get feedback on your communication preferences. Finally, the fourth section aims at collecting feedback and input on the future developments of ECOSO. Your feedback is important to us!

[Participate in the survey](#)

Eb PPP Project Review 2021 available online

ECTP and its Energy Efficient Buildings (E2B) Committee have just released the ninth - and last - edition of the EbB PPP Project Review. This publication presents the progress of a portfolio of 103 projects co-funded within the EbB PPP under the Horizon 2020 programme between 2014 and 2020. The Energy Efficient Buildings (EbB) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) was a joint initiative of the European Commission and the construction industry, represented by the ECTP E2B Committee. It aimed at promoting research on new methods and technologies to accelerate the process of reduction of energy use in new and reconverted buildings and to improve the European industrial competitiveness.

[Find out more](#)

[Access the EbB PPP Project review 2021](#)



EU Construction Outlook

The ING global bank conducted an economic and financial analysis of the EU construction sector and found that, despite several challenges, the sector is recovering. Construction economist Maurice van Sante, concludes that construction output has been resilient since the first COVID-19 lockdowns around Europe, with the sector now bouncing back to pre-Covid levels. Although some contractors reported having material and staff shortages, the sector is performing well. Building permit issuance is on the rise (indicating future construction work) and contractor bankruptcies have remained low. Overall, the construction confidence indicator is positive in many European countries and EU construction volume is expected to grow in 2022.



Upcoming Events

Conference for Renewable Heating and Cooling in Integrated Urban and Industrial Energy Systems

ISEC 2nd INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE 2022

5-7 April 2022 – Graz, Austria and online.

ISEC 2022 is a promoter of innovative ideas in the area of renewable energy systems and resource efficiency as well as a forum for research, industry and energy policy. The ISEC conference will welcome international delegates from across the globe to create a meeting point for the international exchange of ideas. This year's focus is on the UN Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the European Green Deal aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Read the full agenda for a detailed schedule of all conferences and biographies of the keynote speakers. This is a hybrid event, held both in-person and online.

[Find out more](#)

World Sustainable Energy Days 2022

World Sustainable Energy Days
5 - 8 April 2022, Wels/Austria

5-8 April 2022 – Wels, Austria and online

The 2022 edition of World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED) will focus on the transformational potential of policies and technologies in order to meet climate neutrality goals. This year's theme is "Energy transition - full speed ahead!" WSED will hold at least six conferences, host well over 60 countries, 100 speakers and 650 participants. The full program provides an overview of the event, including timetables, plus key sub-topics in each of the six conferences, and the qualified speakers who will be presenting them. This is a hybrid event, held both in-person and online.

[Find out more](#)



Building Fair Brno 2022

21-23 April 2022 – Brno, Czech Republic

The Building Fair Brno will feature product presentations, lectures, demonstrations, advisory centres, student competitions and presentation of former apprentices' work. The fair aims to present a cross-section view of the entire construction industry, covering the construction of buildings, building crafts and technologies, construction materials and products, and more. The theme of the Building Fair 2022 will be **Inner Environment in Buildings and Thermal Comfort**, specifically focusing on **Green Roofs and Facades, Heating and Cooling, Ventilation and Sun-shading and Lighting and Acoustics**.

[Find out more](#)



International Conference on Smart Cities and Green ICT Systems (SMARTGREENS)

SMARTGREENS 2022
14th International Conference on Smart Cities and Green ICT Systems

Online Streaming | 27-29 April 2022

27-29 April 2022 – Online streaming

The purpose of the International Conference on Smart Cities and Green ICT Systems (SMARTGREENS) is to bring together researchers, designers, developers, and practitioners to discuss topics such as Smart Cities, Green Information and Communication Technologies, Sustainability, Energy-Aware Systems and Technologies, and more. The keynote speakers are researchers from Ireland, the United Kingdom and Germany.

[Find out more](#)



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